

IMC NEWSLETTER



IVYBRIDGE
METHODIST CHURCH

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*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

*Sharing Life
Sharing Faith*

From Amanda



Dear Friends,

With the sun shining today, and the birds chirping, it is not hard to contemplate the new thing that is happening around me – winter is giving way to Spring. There's still a way to go yet, but the evidence is beginning to become apparent; lighter evenings, trees blossoming and flowers budding. This is the time of renewal. **Psalm 103:30 speaks of this 'When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.'**

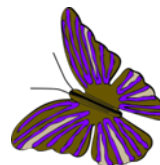
This renewal is the theme we are following through this year's Lent course, and it looks to be challenging, inspiring, and deeply moving. For at this time of year we have the opportunity to offer ourselves afresh to God – our unique personality, with all our gifts and graces, strengths and weaknesses – and seek His renewal. We can ask God to bring new growth, fresh life and beauty out of us.

As Easter approaches, we not only contemplate the newness of life that Jesus promises but also the cost of the fulfilment of that promise - for Jesus laid aside everything, even sacrificing His very life. What a price to pay. All that we might know His new life in us – I wonder what we do with this amazing gift.

May we look to God with eager expectation, as we look forward to the life-changing events of Easter. God can bring new growth, fresh life and beauty out of us and our church if only we open ourselves to Him, accepting the renewing presence of His Spirit. May we look at His creation through new eyes, and see each other in new ways as we continue to serve together, in our town, and may we be praying to welcome His renewal – in His way and in His time.

2 Corinthians 5:17 'So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!'

Christ's blessings
Rev Amanda



FAMILY & FRIENDS



The season of Lent is upon us! Lent is a season in the church that takes place 40 days before Easter. It's a time for Christians to reflect on their faith journey to seek repentance, to fast, and to prepare for Easter and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Lent is a time that the whole family can participate in. It's a great time to help teach our children about forgiveness and sacrifice. So you may be asking what you can do together as a family during this time – let me give you some ideas!

- ✝ Sort through your toys and belongings all together. Before Lent is over, donate what you no longer use, or can do without, to a local charity.
- ✝ Make a Lenten Prayer Corner at home. Use a small table and put out a cloth, with a Bible, and some things that remind you of Lent - maybe a crown of thorns and nails, and a palm branch. Gather around the prayer corner once a day to pray as a family.
- ✝ Watch a Christian film together about the passion.
- ✝ Label a jar 'Lenten Charity', and anytime someone brings home loose change, put it in the jar. At the end of Lent, donate this to charity.
- ✝ Share a simple communion together at home as a family, using a bread roll and some grapes. Just read the story of the Last Supper from the Bible, pray and eat together.
- ✝ Try a simple fast – maybe for just one meal, once a week. Spend the extra time praying or reading the Bible together.

Amanda's Challenge

My mission for you this month, should you choose to accept it, is to see how many different sorts of crosses you can find. You can look when out and about at roofs and windows, and search at home – I bet you will be surprised at the variety you come across! Take photo's of them or draw them – but do keep a record, and let me know how many you discover – there will be a prize for the one who finds the most! The winner be announced in next month's edition.



MARCH 2022

Services



IVYBRIDGE

March 6	10:30 am	Revd Amanda Roper Communion
March 13	10:30 am 6:00 pm	Mr Paul Courtney Revd Amanda Roper Be Filled
March 20	10:30 am 6:30 pm	Mr Mike Cade Prayer Service led by Gill Cowsill
March 27	10:30 am	Revd Amanda Roper All Age Worship - usually held on 3rd Sunday but changed this month due to Mother's Day

BITTAFORD

March 6	11:00 am	Revd David Youngs
March 13	11:00 am	Revd Amanda Roper Communion
March 20	11:00 am	Revd Terry Higgins
March 27	11:00 am	Mr Mike Cade

Be Filled

An evening to be refreshed
by the Holy Spirit



2nd Sunday each month

6:00pm

Ivybridge Methodist Church

Reminder - no mid-week
communion in March due to the
Lent Course



Churches
together in
Ivybridge have
arranged a **Taizé**
service at IMC to
be held on April
3rd at 6.30 pm

I believe
Joan's
Tuesday
morning
Bible Study
Group will be
joining The
Lent Course
for it's
duration.

From the Editor



If you would
like to include
anything in the
April **Newsletter**, please let
me have details by Wed. 16th
March 2022 in either of the
following ways:

- ♦ send it by email to:
imc33chris@gmail.com
- ♦ Put it through my letterbox
or send it to: 33 Julian
Road, Ivybridge. PL21 9BU -
please put your name on it

Church Workdays
second Saturday in month



**3rd Sunday each
month**

@

10:30am



Tea and Toast served from 10am

FAMILY WORSHIP
4th Sunday in March

Seeing young people's lives changed by Jesus is the aim of Ivybridge Youth for Christ and this has never seemed to be more necessary than in the current times. The pandemic has had a big impact on the youth, and we would love you to consider helping us to reach them with the Good News at one of our groups.....



The Bridge Project Youth Cafe – Friday nights at The Bridge (Youth Venue)
6.30-8 pm for those in School Years 6,7, & 8 (volunteers arrive at 6 pm)
8.30-10 pm for those in Years 9+ (volunteers arrive at 8 pm)

Free hot chocolate, biscuits, games available (including X-Box, table tennis, table football, pool, etc.). Volunteers needed as these sessions have grown (over 70 yp per night). Tasks – serve hot chocolate or play games and chat with the young people.

Wired Youth Group – Thursday nights at IMC

6.15-7.30 pm for those in School Years 6-9 (volunteers arrive at 6 pm)

Tasks – man the tuck shop, play games or take part in crafts and chat with the young people.

Volunteers for both groups will need to go through the Ivybridge Youth for Christ volunteer application process which includes a DBS check.

Save the Dates – help us raise vital funds for the charity

Saturday March 19th – CAKE & GARDEN TOOLS SALE (+Bring & Buy) – am

Saturday May 7th – IYFC AGM and QUIZ – evening

Venues to be confirmed

For more details contact Elis Norton on 01752 898546 or 07966 911560

Early notice:

Mayor's Charity Gala Event in aid of Ivybridge Young Carers

To get you thinking of warm sunshine and blue skies we shall be having a delicious Greek supper followed by a showing of Mamma Mia.

The Watermark, 26th March 2022 at 6.15 pm

Tickets on sale soon £20.00

Season of Renewal – a Lent course for everyone



All on Tuesday at 1.30 pm

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|------------|---------------------------------|
| 1st March | 1. Seasons Of Change |
| 8th March | 2. Praying With Jesus |
| 15th March | 3. All Things New |
| 22nd March | 4. Depending on the Holy Spirit |
| 29th March | 5. Made New For Mission |
| 5th April | 6. Celebrating the Kingdom |

For more information, please speak to **Amanda 01752 651910**

This year, the **World Day of Prayer** is on Friday 4 March, at 7:30 p.m. in St John's Church.

IMC, St John's, the Priory and the Salvation Army all participate, and everyone is welcome (it's no longer Women's day only).

The service puts our Christian faith into the context of world-wide needs. We hear about people's experiences of Jesus, we sing and, of course, we pray. It's a lovely, moving service and it would be great if as many people as possible come from IMC. It has been prepared by people in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.



FEBRUARY/MARCH NEWS

If you have anything you would like to include in the **Church News** please let Judy know by ringing her on **01752 894829**

We have a few belated wishes to pass on this month beginning with warmest congratulations to **Emily Martin** who was married to **Mikie** in Cullompton towards the end of February. We do hope it was a lovely day and send all good wishes for your new life together.



Many, many congratulations to **Carol and Ken Kempthorne** who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 19th February. We do hope you celebrated well and we send many blessings for the coming years together.

After a long wait **Gwen Reed** has had her knee operation and is staying with her sister to fully recover. All is going well and she is delighted to be feeling well. However, many will know, it's the mobilisation of new knees that take the hard work so Gwen, we'll be praying for you and hope its not TOO painful!! Look forward to seeing you back at IMC soon.



We are delighted to share that our very own **Chris Phillips** is now **Chris Phillips MBE** which he received from Princess Anne on 9th February at Windsor Castle. As here in Church, Chris very quietly gets on with a range of voluntary work for the Navy and the MBE recognises his commitment to **Aggie Westons** and many, many hours work producing and editing **Story Waves**. This is a support service for members of the Navy who are away on duty for several months at a time to read stories for their children before they go and that their children can listen too whilst Mum or Dad is away. We are very proud of you **Chris** and know this is so well deserved! Many congratulations.

I'm sorry the next item is so late - it got tangled up in Christmas! We had a Christmas card from **Ann Jago** who moved to Newbury with **Christine and Gary** back in the Autumn. She wanted us to know they are settling in well and have found a new church to attend. **Ann** has found two groups to be part of which has helped her to make new friends. She sent love and best wishes to all.





For those who have been in the Church for a while you may (or may not!!) remember that between the end of January and the end of March 1982 there was a baby boom here at IMC. So now in 2022 we send warmest **40th Happy birthday** greetings to **Jonny Gadd, Jo Godfrey (Marriott), Andy Phillips, Rachel Davis (Ion) and Michael Bright**. **Linda Green** also had a son at that time but my memory fails as to which one. A great group from which Springers sprang and Junior Church benefitted.

Gill Ricketts' parents, **Lynn and Harry Dow**, have had a tough time with ill health recently and have now been able to move much closer to **Gill** by becoming residents at **Douro Court**. We wish them a happy settling in and the joy of being able to see more of the family.

We also warmly welcome **Tracy Smith** back to Ivybridge on her return from New Zealand - we do hope you soon settle back and renew friendships **Tracy**. **Tracy** would love to hear from old friends and her number is **07858 159 306**.

Sadly we have to share the news of two bereavements - **David Ion's** Mum **Lois** died suddenly in late January and **Joyce Elliott** in early February. It's a hard time for both families and we send our love and warmest condolences to **David and family** and **Brian, Lorraine and family** as you have to re-adjust to life without these lovely Mums.



Please continue to pray for **Sally, Karen and Brenda** and their families as they navigate difficult times. It's really lovely news that **Evie, Nicky and Dave's** little granddaughter is now fully recovered after her stay in Hospital. It's so worrying when these little ones are poorly and such a relief when they are back to full health. We send love and best wishes to **Becca, Sam and the girls**.

Just a quick note to say, that so all feel included, Amanda asked that the Church Council agenda be sent to all on the mailing list. This caused a little consternation but to confirm you are not expected to come to the meeting (unless you are on CC) but by knowing what will be discussed it is hoped the whole congregation will feel more in touch and be able to follow up those things that interest them.

POEMS for FAITH

March, 2022

Bio

Robert Herrick (1591-1674) was an Anglican priest and served for 31 years in the village of Dean Prior, Devon. As a royalist he was cast out of his position following the English Civil War but restored when Charles II took the throne. Though a life-long bachelor, he wrote many poems for male and female friends and was thoroughly immersed in rural community life. You may know him for the famous lines, 'Gather ye rose buds while ye may/Old Time is still a-flying.'

Background

This month's poem is 'To Keep A True Lent'. Before reading what the 17th Century mind of Herrick considers is necessary for keeping a Godly Lenten season, what do you think and practice?

Poem

Is this a fast, to keep

The larder lean

And clean

From fat of veals and sheep?

Is it to quit the dish

Of flesh, yet still

To fill

The platter high with fish?

Is it to fast an hour,

Or ragged to go,

Or show

A downcast look and sour?

No: 'tis a fast to dole

Thy sheaf of wheat

And meat

Unto the hungry soul.

It is to fast from strife

From old debate

And hate;

To circumcise thy life.

To show a heart grief-rent;

To starve thy sin,

Not bin:

And that's to keep thy Lent.

Pollard A (ed)., 'Robert Herrick The Hesperides and Noble Numbers Volume 2'
(London: Lawrence and Bullen Ltd, 1898 page number 240) - Public Domain

Reflection

Which verse of Herrick's poem did you like/dislike the most? How biblical are the ideas in his poem?

Action

Consider setting yourself the task of finding out what the benefits of the spiritual discipline of fasting are and why Christians still advocate this practice. Decide to fast for one meal, or one day, so you can spend more time with the Lord in prayer while at the same time giving the money you save to your local Foodbank. **Copyright: Mark Roper, February 2022**



Wise and Wonderful.....

....is a fellowship group, open to all.

**We meet from 2.30 to about 4,
on alternate Fridays in term time,
in the hall and café of the Methodist Church.**

SPRING 2022

March 11

Culture Day, with our choices of music, poetry and art.

You are invited to bring something to share.

March 25

**Living and working in Jerusalem, in modern times
with Joan Bulman**

April 8

**Easter reflection
with Rev Amanda Roper**

**We'd like you to wear a mask, if you can. We'll use both the
hall and the café, to create space between us, and we'll do
our best with the ventilation.**

The summer programme begins on April 29th.

For more information, please ring one of us:

Judy 894829 Val 893614 Sue 896444

Christine and David 892858 Carole 894676 Maureen 945799

For more information, please ring one of us:

Church Contacts

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Revd Amanda Roper

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Pam and John

Tel: 01752 894083

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House Group Information:

Helen Tel: 01752 892810



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Visit our website at

www.ivybridgemethodistchurch.co.uk

where you can see a **colour version** of this Newsletter.

If you wish to contact Tony regarding the website you can do so at

mrmerrit@icloud.com